DOCTOR HOLDEN'S LETTE TO A FRIEND OF HIS,

Vpon the occaſion of Mr Blacklow's ſubmitting Writings to the See of Rome: together.

With a copie of the ſaid Mr Blacklow's ſubmiſſion.

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SIR,

Having beene Mr Blacklow's ſchollar ne fourty years agoe, when I was a youg ſtudent; Having over all his works with great attention; And having had n ny & ſeverall conferences with him, by means of our f quent converſation, in matters of all ſortes of learning, l particularly of Divinity, I am confident I know as much his Grounds & Principles as any one whoſoever. I can the fore aſſure you, to ſatisfy your demande in this point, tl I have ever clearely found his doctrine to bee throughly ſ lide, ſound, & ſubſtantiall. I confeſſe that, omitting vo minous citations of skeptike phanſies, & endeavoring to i cite Divins to ſeek for reall ſcience, & to shew how connat rall true Divinity is to the better portion of man, hee vſeth vers expreſſions & manners of ſpeach not common in o ſchooles, & hee hath ſeverall exotick & peculiar opinio which, (be it ſpoken with due reſpect, though in oppoſiti to ſo great a ſchollar & ſo learned a man) are much differe from my ſentiments. But I never ſaw, nor ever heard as yet, any one of his tenets inconſiſtent with the eſſentiall & perfe integrity of our Catholick faith: no nor cenſured in the le

ſee by any authority whatſoever. As wee ſignifyed of late Dr Labourne, in our common letter of mediation for peace betwixt him & Mr Blacklow. Yet having heard that divers our nation (ſome through ignorance, others through a weaker frailty) have laboured to brand his reputation, partly for points of doctrine (which they underſtand not) partly for diſobedience to the See of Rome, I was glad to ſee an Authentick teſtimonie vnder his owne hand (which I have ever knowne to bee in his hart) of his ſubmitting his writings to the See Apoſtolicke. Which my reſpect & love to his perſon, & my deſire to quenche a ſcandal ſo unworthily throwne upon one, whoſe piety & learning may doe ſo much good to God's Church, hath made mee think fit to publish in print. Whereof, becaus you ſeeme to bee in a wavering doubtfullneſſe of the truth of theſe aſperſions, I here ſend you a copie. You know the greateſt part of his Adverſarys, I meane of thoſe whoſe Profeſſion it is to judge of ſuch things (for the laitie in matters of doctrine belonging to Religion, ought to bee hearers & learners, not teachers or judges) are brought up in our privat ſeminarys, & thence eaſily conceive what ever they heare either oppoſit to, or unmentioned in their Maiſter's dictats, to bee erroneous. Whereas if they knew the latitude four moſt learned men's ſingular, & ſometimes new invented, or renewed opinions, dayly maintained & problematically diſputed in our publick ſchooles, without the leaſt ſuſpicion of their integrity in Catholike beleefe; they would not (if no way blinded with Paſſion) ſo ſlightly shoote their cenſuring bolts at randome; eſpecially againſt a brother, & ſuch a brother. If this his candid & ingenuous ſubmiſſion doe reduce & undeceive ſuch as have erred in their judgments to his prejudice, either through mis information from others, or misunderſtanding in them ſelves, I ſhall bee glad to have published it; If not, I ſhall not bee ſory to have endeavored it, hoping it will at leaſt prevaile with you, to whom I am as ever,

SIR,

In nomine Domini, Amen.

I Vnderwritten declare to whom it shall concerne that upon a motion of peace made by some worthy friends, to really acte what is desired, doe sincerely profesſe that I hold it necessary, that all Catholikes should, in hart & in all humility & obedience, submitte their Divinity writings to the holy Church & See Apostolick. And, as this hath ever beene my opinion, so being now required by the said friends, I doe humbly & sincerely profesſe it to all it shall concerne, by this my present writing or instrument; And this to reach to all my books either passed or to come. Protesting never to recede from this resolution, as far as God shall give mee grace; And this not only before men, but also before God, as I hope & expect good from him. May 18. 1657. THOMAS WHITE.

Whereas I vnderwritten have heretofore given a submission of my writings to the holy Church & See Apostolik, to satisfye such as might doubt of my obedience to the Pope; And that not withstanding I gave it as full & ample as possibly I could, according as my true intention then was, now is, ever hath beene, & ever shall bee, God willing, I heare that some have misunderstood it, & have conceived that I intended only by those words, *Holy Church & See Apostolik*, the Catholick Church & Pope conjointly; but not to the See of Rome, & S. Peter's succesſour the Pope, separat from a Generall Council: As also that I only declared my opinion, but profesſed no actuall submission of my writings, I therefore doe now ingenuosly & freely declare & profesſe that it is my opinion & judgement, all Catholikes ought in hart & in all humility & obedience submitte their Divinity writings; not only to the Holy Church in common & in a Generall Council, where the Pope may bee in person or by his Deputys, but also to the particular See of Rome & S. Peter's succesſour the Pope, even out of a Generall Council, which as I have always done in my hart, so doe I now likewise actually & willingly

all my writings to the particular See of Rome & St Peter's successour the Pope, even out of a Generall Council; And this according as my opinion & beleefe hath ever taught mee. Ratifying & confirming to this effect all the contents of my former submission. In witnesse whereof I have set hereunto my hand, this 2. July 1657.

THOMAS WHITE.